

MINUTES OF THE  
JOINT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2009, 2:00 P.M.  
Room 30, House Building, State Capitol Complex

Members Present:                Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Co Chair  
                                      Rep. John Dougall, Co Chair  
                                      Sen. Patricia W. Jones  
                                      Sen. Margaret Dayton  
                                      Sen. Daniel R. Liljenquist  
                                      Rep. Kraig Powell  
                                      Rep. Rebecca Chavez-Houck  
                                      Rep. Keith Grover  
                                      Rep. Ben C. Ferry  
                                      Rep. Paul Ray  
                                      Rep. David Litvack

Staff Present:                 Russell Frandsen, Fiscal Analyst  
                                      Stephen Jardine, Fiscal Analyst  
                                      Nicholle Heidrich, Secretary

Public Speakers Present:     Lisa-Michele Church, Executive Director, Dept. of Human Services  
                                      Duane Betournay, Division Director of Child and Family Services  
                                      Mark Payne, Division Director of Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
                                      Alan Ormsby, Division Director of Services for People with Disabilities  
                                      Mark Brasher, Director of the Office of Recovery Services  
                                      Nels Holmgren, Division Director of Aging and Adult Services

A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Rep. Dougall at 2:50 p.m.

1. Welcome and Overview by Rep. Dougall.

2. Department of Human Services Overview by Lisa-Michele Church.

Ms. Church briefly discussed the Department of Human Services. Ms. Church talked about the values that underlie the Human Services Programs. They provide protection, self-sufficiency and accountability. The public has the right to expect the department will spend taxpayer dollars wisely, and manage within its budget. There was some brief interaction with Legislators.

Duane Betournay from DCFS went over the accomplishments of the division. The agency has helped keep children safe as dictated by state and federal funding. Their main goal is trying to keep families together.

Mr. Betournay also talked about Kindship Care and the Adam Walsh Act. There are more and more kids in Kindship homes. If you don't provide these programs these kids will come back to the state. The division also provides in home services that will help keep families together. This agency exists to place children in safe environments.

Legislators asked several questions about caseloads of caseworkers as well as the David C. Lawsuit Settlement.

Mark Payne with the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) talked about the DSAMH and its responsibility. He spoke about substance abuse treatment and the different levels of treatment. These treatments are helpful for families and the community. Mr. Payne said that mental health treatment does work and allows for people to get better. He stated the earlier the treatment the better.

Alan Ormsby, Division Director for Services for People with Disabilities, said that they are by far the largest agency. He said there is a huge waiting list. Mr. Ormsby said that they provide limited services for these people so they can stay safe within the home and the community. They provide 4,800 individuals with services and there are 1,500 on the waiting list. The agency tries to use family supports and keep the person within the home. Mr. Ormsby said that 98.7% of the funds are matched federally.

Mark Brasher, the Director of ORS, said that 94% of his budget is for Child Support collections. The federal government has strict guidelines with regard to Medicaid and Child support collections. Mr. Brasher said that Utah is in the top 10 states and places 7th in the nation for its program. He said that other states have come into their agency to see how they do things and what they could do differently. Legislators asked Mr. Brasher several questions about the processes being done electronically.

Nels Holmgren, Director of the Division of Aging and Adult Services, said that he primarily works with the counties. They help provide support for people around elderly people. He said that all clients are screened to make sure they qualify. They oversee a number of programs such as: Meals on Wheels, Congregate Meals, Care Giver Support, and a Medicaid Aging Waiver, which is providing care in the home at a fraction of the cost.

Legislators then asked follow-up questions of the department. Rep. Dougall also drew the committee's attention to a letter from Sen. Van Tassell to the Department of Health regarding the possibility of merging the Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Quality to provide greater effectiveness to the state. Several questions were asked about how such discussions might take place between the two appropriations subcommittees.

There was a discussion among committee members and the department regarding meeting the \$22 million target labeled agency productivity enhancements.

The Co-Chair adjourned the meeting.

Minutes recorded by Nicholle Heidrich, Secretary